

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

MAY 1, 2000

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College \$2.6 million richer

Funding will benefit computer and network infrastructure

Conestoga College got a \$2.6 million shot in the arm from the Strategic Skills Initiative Fund, which will help finance ongoing development of computer and network infrastructure at the college.

The new funding was announced by Al Palladini, minister of Economic Development and Trade, on April 20.

The project will build upon the existing information technology training centre that opened in September 1999 at the Waterloo campus with the establishment of five networked Internet labs. Phase 2 includes upgrading of seven computer labs, plus the

addition of eight new labs at the Doon, Guelph and Waterloo campuses. Additions to existing network infrastructure will continue.

Phase 2 will begin in May with the installation of application servers to provide local businesses and industries with access to training for their particular platforms.

A major feature will be access to over \$1 million worth of software, with a focus on e-commerce.

The total value of the comprehensive project in IT programming is \$16.7 million, according to an April 20 press release from the college.

Some of the money being raised originates from local companies such as Research in Motion, Mortice Kern Systems, leading members of Commutech and global IT corporations including IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Corel Corporation.

The phased introduction of new IT programming will continue through 2004.

College president John Tibbits said during a February college council meeting the college is trying to become the top information technology college in the province.

The fund, which was established

by the provincial government, has \$100 million in its coffers. The college had requested \$2.6 million in a proposal submitted Feb. 1.

Another provincial government fund the college is attempting to tap into is the Rural Youth Job Strategy Fund. The college submitted a proposal to the fund on Feb. 8 for \$1.2 million, with results pending.

Money from the rural fund will go toward seven new programs within the next 18 months. The only stipulation made by the government in regard to the rural fund is that all programs be available to students in rural areas.

Conestoga set to lockdown if needed

By Donna Ryves

Conestoga College now has a lockdown procedure in place. It is an emergency response for students and staff to follow in the event of a crisis situation such as someone entering the school and threatening people with a gun.

A situation is deemed a crisis when an individual is threatened or harmed by another person using a firearm or other weapon.

Additional information addressing the possession of weapons on campus will also be added to the college's procedure handbook.

A lockdown procedure has been

specifically developed for the Doon campus and a similar procedure will be used for all the other campuses.

Allan Hunter, supervisor of security services at the college, consulted with the Waterloo regional police in creating the procedure to be implemented in the fall.

"This is an extremely safe place to be and there's a very remote chance that anything would happen here, but anything is possible," Hunter said.

In a lockdown situation, if students and staff are in a secure environment, they would lock themselves in the classroom and

wait for instruction. It is advised to stay away from windows and doors when they have been made secure. Students and staff should remain quiet, low and against a masonry wall and keep drapes closed and lights off. As well, they are instructed not to permit access to anyone unless they are clearly identified.

"This will not prevent an insane person from coming on campus, but if something is seen we can take action a lot quicker," Hunter said.

The Waterloo regional police will be contacted in a lockdown situation.

"I'm not trying to say there's a risk, but if we can give people a

sense of safety and enhance existing safety, that's what we're here for," Hunter said.

Additions to weapon regulations include restrictions on imitation weapons, ammunition, knives and prohibition on dangerous chemicals including explosives and fireworks.

Definitions and descriptions of firearms, ammunition, weapons, imitations and prohibited devices are in accordance with the Criminal Code of Canada.

The only exceptions are for peace officers and licensed guards carrying weapons for the purpose of their duties of employment.

CSI logo revealed

By Mike Radatus

The DSA has released the new logo to represent the new name of the organization, Conestoga Students Incorporated.

Jenn Hussey, vice-president of operations, said the DSA considered numerous ideas and designs, but decided on the logo that best recognized the DSA's main goal.

The logo was designed to show the organization's stride toward unity among students, campuses, faculty and the college.

"It has a body reaching out that symbolizes reaching out to students and the other campuses," said Hussey.

The colours of the new design were chosen to show a connection with the colours of the college.

The CSI is written on the logo in a way that you can see a person reaching out their arms. The body

of the person is blue and the arms are red.

The "I" in the logo represents the body and head of a person, the "C" represents the right arm and the "S" represents the left arm.

Conestoga is written over the right arm and Students Incorporated is around the left arm. The first letter of each word is red and the remainder of the letters are blue.

DSA president Ellen Menage said that when planning for the logo the DSA discussed a need to come up with something new.

"It was important for us to think of a new, fresh idea, instead of just a variation of the old design," said Menage.

Until the design is complete, the exact cost is unknown because the DSA is being charged by the hour for the creation of the design.

The logo is estimated to cost between \$300 and \$400.

Not waterproof



Daryl Newcombe splashes through the rain at Conestoga on April 20.
(Photo by Sherri Osment)

College students confused by university admissions

Universities tend to have differing opinions as to how much weight a college credit deserves.

College students who wish to pursue further education are faced with an unnecessary obstacle in the form of university admissions.

For example, in a recent interview Greg Burns, co-ordinator of the recreation and leisure services program at Conestoga College, said he has had students from his program who left Conestoga with a 90 per cent average turned down by the University of Waterloo.

These same students, according to Burns, then applied to Brock University in St. Catharines and were promptly accepted.

The question arises, why such different responses from two Ontario universities?

"We are all different," said Peter Burroughs, director of admissions at UW. He added that each university may offer the same program in title, but each course differs from other schools because of the professor teaching the course and the content being taught.

That may be a great method to display a university's individuality, but college students are left in the lurch, not knowing if their college courses will stand up to university scrutiny.

"We don't have common admission requirements," said Burroughs. "You can't evaluate programs the same because admission is specified differently for each program."

He said some college courses may make the grade, resulting in a transfer of college credits towards university credits, but how much credit a college course will receive once again differs from university to university.

Brock states in its admissions policy that graduates of a three-year diploma program with a cumulative average of 70 per cent, or an average of 70 per cent in the last two semesters of a three-year diploma program, will be considered for admission and may receive credit for up to five credits. In some cases where programs at the college and Brock are compatible, up to seven credits may be awarded.

Brock bases its transfer credits on the compatibility of the college courses with Brock's courses, the course content studied while at college and the grades achieved in college courses.

UW only states general admissions requirements and postpones its judgment of college courses until the student has applied to a program.

Burroughs said universities maintain separate identities from each other when it comes to admissions because it makes a university distinct.

However, college students who maintain exemplary grades throughout their college careers should be viewed as a bonus for any university and the marks they achieved in college should be worth equal weight at each and every university.

In the process of retaining their individuality, universities are turning away prospective students, students who have proven in college that they are capable and hardworking.

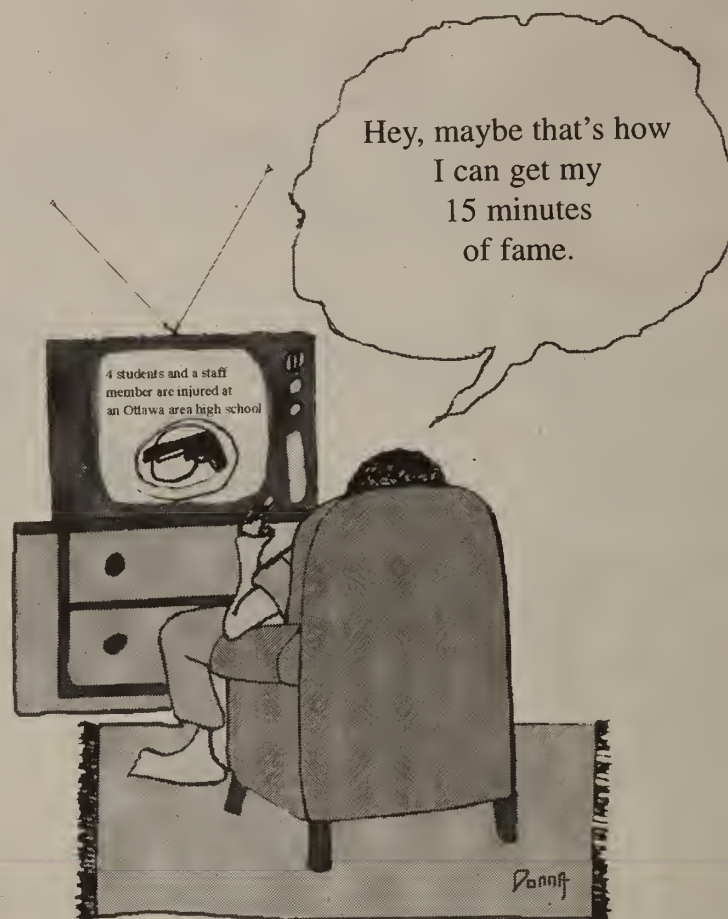
Universities should re-evaluate their admissions procedures in an attempt to entice rather than frighten away college students.

If college students have the experience, money and drive to pursue further education, universities are foolish to turn them away.

Many courses offered at community colleges are just as rigorous as university courses.

Students who are applying to university who have completed college courses should have the option of transferring college credits towards university credits.

It's time universities changed their elitist attitude in this regard.



Sensational media coverage leads to copycat crime

With the extensive coverage given to the Columbine high school shootings, it comes as no surprise that a copycat crime happened on April 20, where four students and a lab technician were stabbed with a steak knife at an Orleans high school near Ottawa.



Donna Ryves

That same day, a Regina boy was charged with threatening to set off a bomb in a high school, where a reference was made to the mass shooting that took place at Columbine high school in Colorado a year ago.

These attacks may not have surprised many people considering they both fell on the anniversary of the mass shooting where two students from Columbine high school in Littleton, Colo., shot 12 students and a teacher and then took their own lives on April 20, 1999.

A week later in Taber, Alta., a high school student killed one student and wounded another in a shooting.

Common characteristics of kids

who commit these crimes seem to be that they are lonely and have been teased and bullied by peers at school.

"There is a copycat effect in instances of school violence or workplace violence after extensive or sensationalized media coverage of a similar event," said Det. Sgt. Jim Van Allen of the Ontario Provincial Police, in a Kitchener Record article on April 18.

Copycat crimes are crimes that originate from highly publicized crimes.

Many radio stations made some reference to the Columbine shooting on the anniversary, even though it happened a year ago.

A newsletter may as well have been sent out to the downcast and dysfunctional saying "consider April 20 as a possible date for violent attacks."

The media, collectively, seem to devote a lot of time and energy to vigorous coverage of violence.

"I think the Columbine incident should be underplayed, but it would be a tragedy not to cover these stories at all," said David Spencer, a professor in the faculty of information and media studies at

the University of Western Ontario. "If you look at the CNN approach, they just give saturation upon saturation of information. There is no need to cover every hour nonstop for a week."

Is it any wonder that teenagers choose violent methods to deal with their problems?

Copycat crimes have been studied and links have been made to media coverage of violent incidents.

"For certain rare cases it has been documented by research that individuals commit these crimes as a result of what they've seen or read," said Julian Roberts, a criminology professor at the University of Ottawa who has published articles on the subject.

Yes, it is important to cover these incidents, but the media should be careful not to sensationalize.

School threats in Ontario have increased "dramatically" since the Columbine deaths, and many of the threats refer to the Columbine incident, said Van Allen in the Record article.

"Obviously the idea was picked up from somewhere."

Sensational media coverage is doing more harm than good.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Founding fathers honoured with memorial trees

By Ray Bowe

Special trees will be planted in memory of two of the college's founding fathers, Kenneth E. Hunter and Dr. James W. Church.

Church, the founding president of Conestoga College in 1967, died Jan. 8 at the age of 83. He remained with the college until 1974.

When Church was appointed president, the college was nothing more than a few portable classrooms scattered across a field. Church was responsible for locating the site, building the complex and also building up the academic stature of the college.

After leaving the college in 1974, Church went on to Memorial University in Newfoundland and later returned to the University of Waterloo where he taught before he was president at Conestoga.

Church was involved in wood-working, designing radars and in building Lancaster bombers.

Hunter, whose name is on the college's recreation complex, died Nov. 11, last year, at the age of 77.

He was a geophysicist and aerospace engineer. Hunter worked for a company called Hycon in the '60s which built cameras for the Apollo 13 mission and the SR-71 Blackbird research aircraft. He left Hycon in 1971.

Hunter became president of the college in 1974 and stayed for 13 years. During his tenure as college president, enrolment increased significantly.

He retired in 1987 and moved to Santa Cruz, Calif. He is survived by four children and two grandchildren.

Speeches will be read May 7 in the Blue Room at 1:30 p.m. The trees will be planted prior to the event to the left of the pond behind the college.

The Church family chose a black walnut, while the family of Kenneth Hunter has chosen an oak tree. The families will also dedicate a fitting epitaph to accompany each tree.

According to Helena Webb, assistant to the college president, the trees will have to be planted higher up on the rise because the two trees are expected to reach great heights.

Learning opportunity project at halfway point

By Sherri Osment

The four-year learning opportunities project at Conestoga College reaches its halfway mark this summer.

The project was started in 1998 as a way to help students with specific learning disabilities make the transition from high school to post-secondary education. Specific learning disability has been defined by the learning opportunities task force/Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities as "aptitude-achievement discrepancy in someone of at least potentially average IQ."

Eight different projects were launched in 13 post-secondary schools in Ontario and they are evaluated on an ongoing basis.

At the end of the four years the programs will be reviewed to determine which aspects can be combined to come up with an ideal

model to help students with learning disabilities.

Some of the supports available to students through the project include peer support groups and learning strategies training which works on problem solving, note-taking and study skills. There is also a computer lab with software that helps students with learning disabilities.

Students who want to take part in the project must have documentation of a specific learning disability.

Rick Casey, the special needs transition officer for the learning opportunities

project, said Conestoga is not lowering the standards to help people with learning disabilities get into courses.

"This is not about someone who doesn't have the capability to be here, they must meet the requirements that any other student does," said Casey.

The project is being operated through Conestoga's special needs services.

that the fair is a good opportunity to see many books at one time," said Jill Douglas, LRC co-ordinator.

About 26 vendors attended last year's sale and the same turnout is expected this year.

Many of the publishers come from the Toronto area including McGraw Hill Ryerson, the Oxford University Press and Pearson Educational Canada.

Annual book fair scheduled for May

By Donna Ryves

The learning resource centre is holding its annual book fair in the Blue Room cafeteria from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 9.

The fair is held for faculty members to purchase course-related textbooks for their students straight from the publishers.

"We usually have faculty saying

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Fisher hangs up the mike after 40 years

By Ray Bowe

One of the broadcast - radio and television program's most well-liked faculty members is getting ready to step into retirement in May.

Dan Fisher, who's been working in the broadcast industry for over 40 years, has made a huge impact on the students and the program.

"Students love Dan and he loves them," said Mike Thurnell, program co-ordinator who was hired a year prior to Fisher's arrival in 1994. "His presence is equal to those who've been here 20 years."

"He's more than faculty," said second-year broadcast student Jayson Doak. "He's more like a grandfa-

ther." Doak said Fisher was instrumental in turning what began as a part-time job into a full-time position.

Fisher was born in Pictou, N.S., as Dan Fish. Pictou is a small coastal village on the Northumberland Strait just outside New Glasgow, a village of under 500 people.

In 1945, at the age of 10, the Fish family moved to Ottawa where his father, a native of Blackpool, England, had taken a job with the CBC.

Fisher started his career in broadcasting in 1956 when he was hired by CHOV radio in Pembroke, north of Ottawa, where he became Dan Trout. He remained at CHOV for

two years where he served as the station's 6 p.m. - to - midnight man before taking over the mid-morning show. In Pembroke, Fisher covered local sports teams and did court reports for both broadcast and print media.

He took a job at CKKW in Kitchener in 1961 and changed his on-air name to Dan Fisher, because it fit in better with the large German community. Fisher sounded more German.

Fisher is quick to point out that changing one's name is not a part of the broadcast business anymore. It was primarily done to ease speaking matters, he says.

"It was easier to say 'Dan Fisher

signing off', rather than 'This is Dan Fish signing off,'" joked Fisher.

He would remain in the area for the next 40 years. Fisher hosted a radio talk show that was primarily a buy-and-sell show pitched at housewives. He served CKKW for 18 years as the station's program manager and admits he was fond of hiring people with local roots.

During his career, Fisher interviewed prime ministers Pierre Trudeau, John Diefenbaker and Joe Clark.

"They were all interesting people in their own right and had their good points and bad points," said Fisher. He has also shared the microphone with Col. Harland Sanders, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken; Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mt. Everest; and comedian Don Herron whose alter ego is Charlie Farquharson.

When Fisher was interviewing Herron - or Farquharson - he could not tell which he was speaking to, even during commercial breaks. Herron would not come out of character, said Fisher.

"I just love radio and broadcasting has been good to me," he said. "I love the students and I love putting back into the industry."

Many people around the broadcasting program's third-floor headquarters claim it's Fisher's ever-present glee that breaks the tension a lot of the time.

"Respect. He's fun to be with and he puts fun into everything," said Thurnell.

"Dan's a unique person," said Doak. "He's very outgoing and extremely humorous."

One thing Fisher has kept up with over the years is the advances in technology. When computers first came on the market in the early '80s, he bought a TRS-80, virtually a calculator in today's world.

However, today, with the growth of the Internet, he loves searching for information, such as genealogical knowledge for compiling family trees.

He also likes finding obscure sites that are beneficial in cultivating stories on entertainment, sports, news and for features.

The Internet is one of the most important tools in a newsroom, he added.

"You can find information on almost every conceivable thing out there," he said.

Another of Fisher's hobbies is picking up short-wave radio transmissions over the Web. He loves being able to hear broadcasts from as far away as Oslo, Norway, and Nairobi, Kenya.

"With advances in software I can listen to a station in Melbourne, Australia, if I want, and in full stereo," he said.

With the advances in new technology, there is no noticeable time lag on Web broadcasts.

One Christmas Day Fisher listened as Australians were still phoning in to the station about Christmas lists.

Fisher loves keeping up to date on the latest technological advancements.

"In communications, we're on the edge of a gigantic leap forward with wireless devices being improved."

Fisher also sees the Internet playing a big part in radio's future. He foresees music being bought right over the station in 15 to 20 years, radio printouts and extensive product information.

After his May retirement, Fisher plans to visit a few places he's never seen before, including Newfoundland and British Columbia. He says he'd also like to visit family in England and Australia.

"It's time to spend some quality time enjoying everything else," said Fisher.

"Dan's always there and he never has anything bad to say," said Janice Saywell, a second-year broadcast student. "He's an all-round good guy and it's really sad to see him go. The new person will never really replace Dan."



Dan Fisher, broadcast - radio and television faculty, at the helm of the controls in the broadcast booth. Fisher is retiring this month. He has been in the business of broadcasting for 40 years.

(Photo by Ray Bowe)

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**Conestoga
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BRT students raise over \$1,000

Two students forgo sleep to help out Canadian Cancer Society

By Ray Bowe

Two broadcast - radio and television students raised over \$1,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society by camping out in the Sanctuary and the Wave Radio broadcast booth from 8:30 a.m. April 17 until 12:30 p.m. April 20.

Jayson Doak and Chris Lantz, both second-year BRT students, tried to go the whole time without sleep, but when they did get tired, one slept while the other remained on the air.

"When Thursday comes we'll be rough," said Doak Monday morning.

"A shower will be nice, too," joked Lantz.

Doak came up with the idea to do a telethon but wasn't sure which cause they should support.

"We wanted to do a fund-raiser of

some sort, but we didn't know what to do," said Doak.

The pair started camping out in the Sanctuary Monday morning before moving up to the somewhat more comfortable confines of the Wave Radio booth on the third floor. The two finished up the telethon Thursday by returning to the Sanctuary.

"Down in the Sanctuary it's an easier place to go around to the students asking for donations," said Doak Tuesday morning, as opposed to the secluded area on the third floor where the Wave Radio booth is located.

After conferring with Mike Thurnell, co-ordinator of the BRT program, who noted that April is Cancer Awareness Month, the two students decided to support the Canadian Cancer Society.



Jayson Doak, right, and Chris Lantz in the Sanctuary at the start of their three-day fund-raiser.
(Photo by Ray Bowe)

During the week, the two students gave away various gift cer-

tificates while accepting donations.

The pair was hoping to raise \$500 before the end of the week, but raised \$130 after only one day.

The pair raised \$1,034 during the week, partly due to a generous contribution from NCR, a company that engineers and develops imaging systems and automated teller machines in Waterloo, who donated \$500.

For the record, Lantz fell asleep twice before Doak slept once.

Doak was awake from 7 a.m. Monday morning until Thursday afternoon, close to 80 hours. Lantz left Tuesday morning for some shuteye around 10 a.m.

Doak attributed this to training he had received while in the military. Doak participated in basic infantry drills for two years and during one exercise, he said he went for one week with virtually no sleep, which led to hallucinations at one point.

Student skater takes it all in stride

By Sherri Osment

While many students at Conestoga College find they struggle with classes and part-time jobs, some have even more on their minds.

Jennifer Kerr is in her third year of management studies at Conestoga College, has a part-time job at Clarica and still manages to find time to skate 30 hours a week.

Kerr, 22, spends much of her time skating with the K.W. Kweens synchronized skating team, which is a part of Team Canada.

She went to France to compete for the French Cup at the beginning of February, where her team came in sixth.

Kerr said that the stress doesn't bother her too much because she has been skating since she was three and is used to the busy lifestyle.

Kerr also recently skated in the Canadian Championships, which were held in Kitchener at the beginning of March this year. The Kweens came in fifth at this competition.

However, now that the skating season is over she does have a few months to relax a little.

From March to September is the only time Kerr can talk to her friends from Wingham, where she was born and raised. Because she is so busy she feels disconnected from family

and friends who still live there.

She said that her grades are better during the skating season because she knows she has to keep the pressure on herself.

However, Kerr does admit that sometimes her life does get a bit too hectic.

"Some days we'd be driving to practice and we're like, 'Can we get in a car accident?' and just not go. But, once you get there it's fine, it's just getting your butt there."

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Clarification

In a story in the April 24 edition of Spoke about Conestoga College looking at shortening semesters from 16 weeks to 15 weeks in length it should have been noted that several other models are also being considered. Consultation sessions with various groups including students and faculty are currently being held to gather input.

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Slipknot kills keg

By Mike Radatus

Slipknot, a California-based band, showed the crowd at the Warehouse in Toronto, April 1, that the performer has authority.

Slipknot, a heavy metal band that wears crazy-looking clown masks that hide their true identity from the crowd, stopped their show to tell the crowd to sit down. After 10 minutes of telling the crowd they would not play anymore music unless they sat down, the crowd sat.

Later in the show Slipknot tested their ability to control the crowd with a little less flare. They told the audience to put their fists in the air and sing along with the verses.

A few hundred people crammed into the Warehouse to see the nine-piece band run rabid on stage, breaking equipment, hitting each other and setting an empty beer keg on fire.

Slipknot is on tour for their first full-length album, a self-titled release on Roadrunner records.

Slipknot headlined the show and was the only band on the bill, including Kitty and Dope, who had any original sound or real melody.

The old saying, "If it's too loud, you're too old," could be tested by Slipknot. The sound and body-rat-

ting effect of the bass was enough to make you deaf.

The moshpit was littered with bodies bumping into each other and several people had to be taken out for medical attention.

Slipknot played a small set that seemed to last long because of all the stops in songs and the theatrical performances by the members.

Several times the band stopped to preach, often telling the crowd that

they were slaves to the burden of society.

"People = S - it" was written on the wall and it was obvious that Slipknot was on stage for the thrill of shock.

Overall, Slipknot played a shock-filled performance. The music was loud, probably as loud as it could have been, and Slipknot played as hard as they could for the audience.



A member of Slipknot plays drums on an empty keg of beer that was later set on fire.
(Internet photo)

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- Help with the successful orientation and registration of incoming students to Conestoga College during orientation week
- Assist in preparing orientation and registration materials

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- Providing directions and information
- Distributing orientation materials
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All applicants will be contacted during the summer months to confirm involvement

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Waterloo Inn
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Waterloo, ON N2J 2W6
Phone: 884-0221 ext 518
Fax: 884-0321

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Or call 748-5220 ext 730

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Shelley Schenk (Leader)
Manager, Child Care Centres

Lisa Horst
ECE Worker (Lead Hand),
Driftwood Park

Ann Bain
ECE Program Faculty

Bev Laking
ECE Worker,
Waterloo/Glencairn

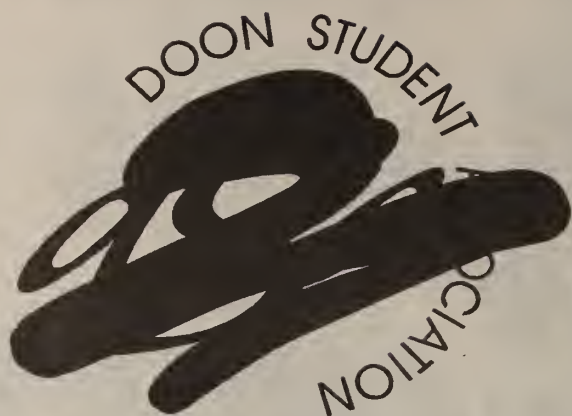
Laurie Benstead
ECE Worker, John Darling

Barb Glaser
ECE Administration Support
Staff

Anne McCourt
ISO Steering Committee
ECE Worker (Lead Hand),
Glencairn

Violet Nemec
ECE Worker, Doon

ISO 9001
Setting new standards.
Conestoga College



Services

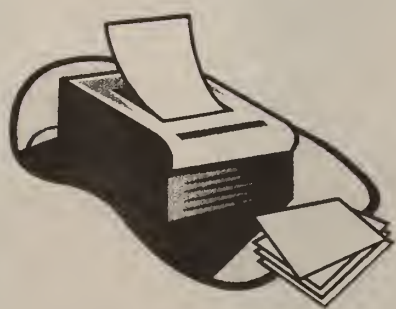
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